

Serial No. **10/622,458**
Amdt. dated August 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2006

Docket No. **HI-0155**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 20 is amended to correct an informality. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,805,139 to Uehara (hereinafter "Uehara") in view of Rudd, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0180704 (hereinafter "Rudd"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a computer system which includes an internal input device configured to receive user commands, and a controller coupled to the internal input device and communicating with an operating system program that determines when an external Universal Serial Bus (USB) input device is attached to the computer, and wherein the operating system is configured to ignore data from the internal input device and to receive data from the external USB input device when an external USB input device is attached to the computer system. Independent claim 11 is directed to a method for controlling a computer, including determining whether an external USB input device has been attached to the computer, and disabling an internal input device of the computer and enabling the external USB input device when the result of the determining step indicates that an external USB input device has been

attached to the computer. Independent claims 6, 20 and 21 recite similar features in varying scope.

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no motivation to combine features of the Rudd system into the Uehara system. The Uehara system already provides a method for activating or deactivating an internal pointing device depending upon a preset use mode. The Uehara reference has no need for any additional systems or methods for controlling whether the internal or external pointing devices are capable of providing input to the computer system. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no reason to combine the references as asserted in the Office Action.

In addition, the Rudd reference discloses a method of disabling pointing devices which are a part of a keyboard. This type of a combined keyboard and pointing device is typically used on a laptop computer. Rudd neither discloses nor suggests any type of alteration or adaptation to any type of external pointing device which may be connected thereto. Rather, Rudd is clearly focused on the interaction of the internal pointing devices alone. Accordingly, there is nothing in the Rudd reference which could be imported into the Uehara system to control whether an external pointing device is able to provide input to a computer system. For this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no motivation to combine anything from the Rudd reference into the Uehara system.

In view of all the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is improper. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over even the improper combination of Uehara and Rudd. As acknowledged by the Examiner in the remarks regarding independent claims 1, 6, 11, 20 and 21, Uehara neither discloses nor suggests that features of the independent claims, or the respective dependent claimed combinations of features. Rudd fails to overcome these deficiencies of Uehara.

Rudd discloses a laptop computer, including a keyboard with a plurality of alphanumeric/typographic keys, a touch pad 106, a switch 104, and cursor control switches 100, 102, 108 and 110 all provided on a single surface of the keyboard, as shown in Figure 1 of Rudd.

Depression of any of the alphanumeric/typographic keys automatically disables the touch pad 106 and switches 100, 102, 104, 108, 110 for a predetermined amount of time so as to prevent unintentional movement of the cursor due to any accidental contact with any of these devices while typing, and a corresponding movement of a data insertion point while typing. Functionality of the touch pad 106 and switches 100, 102, 104, 108, 110 is restored when the keys remain inactive for a predetermined amount of time. Only devices that are subject to accidental touching while typing are disabled, while external devices, such as a mouse, remain enabled regardless of whether or not the keys are depressed.

The presence or absence of an external device, such as a mouse, and/or the operational

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state of such an external device (i.e., enabled or disabled), has no bearing whatsoever on the operational state of any of the internal devices disclosed by Rudd (namely, the keys, touch pad 106 and switches 100, 102, 104, 108, 110). That is, attachment/detachment of an external device does not affect whether the touch pad 106 and/or switches 100, 102, 104, 108, 110 are enabled or disabled. Thus, Rudd neither discloses nor suggests an operating system which is configured to ignore data from an internal input device and to receive data from an external input device when an external device is attached to the computer, as recited in independent claims 1 and 6, nor means for disabling an internal input device and enabling an external input device when an external input device is attached to the computer, as recited in independent claim 20, nor the corresponding step(s) recited in independent claims 11 and 21.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 6, 11, 20 and 21 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1, 6, 11, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Uehara and Rudd should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-19 and 22-32 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 6, 11, 20 and 21, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are

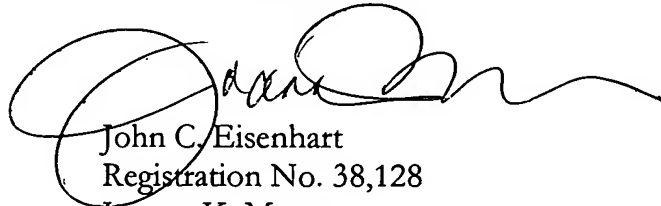
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earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: August 2, 2006

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